

Ethics Reflection

Answer 2 of the following reflection questions; write at least 150 words on each.

1. How important is consistency in moral reasoning?
 - a. If a decision has been considered morally correct, then it is more likely to again be accepted. In other words consistency in reasoning is crucial in determining an action as it relies on the past to support predictions for the future. For example, if it has been consistently accepted that being kind to others has been mutually beneficial, then the individual is more likely to be persuaded to reason that it has worked in the past and therefore applying in the future is the right course of action. However this can be criticized as one may make a decision based on countless ones made in the past yet will no longer be morally reasonable. This is due to change in context or period of time, where morals shift, slavery once accepted as a respected means of income is now outlawed in the modern world. Slavery has been carried out for thousands of years and in little more than a century it was illegal and morally wrong. This is a clear example where consistency has failed to justify moral reasoning, however it does not suggest that it is not at all important. Mainly because, going back to the slavery example, there are places in the world where slavery is still practiced openly as well as many places where it has been forced underground or morphed into a different form. Suggesting that in some societies and individuals, accepting slavery has still remained consistent because of again context, social-economic and political factors have shaped a society's and individual's reasoning. Therefore asking does moral reasoning depend upon the context of the situation and whether or not there are some morals which will forever remain universal?
2. Does History show we have made moral progress?
3. Are scientists morally responsible for how their discoveries are used? Refer to one or more natural sciences as an area of knowledge?
4. Is ethics more a matter of the head or the heart?
 - a. Both, individuals use both their hearts and their minds to determine the right or wrong course of action. It depends more on the context rather than a straight forward reasoning on whether the mind guides us better than our hearts. Stealing for a good cause such as for your family is where emotionally, the individual knows that it is the right thing to do and then uses reasoning to backup that action through the fact that those actions will benefit the group rather than just the individual. But using reason alone will determine that stealing is wrong despite the

benefit of helping the group and providing more satisfaction. However emotions have allowed the individual understand the poor situation of the group and therefore reason that it is right to steal for their benefit. Thus the cause determines the action; hence leads to question whether ethics based on emotions makes better decisions for the whole as well as reasoning being better for the individual's benefit?

Remember to use Key TOK language and refer to Ways Of Knowing and Areas Of Knowledge